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**DOWNLOADABLE CODE IN A DISTRIBUTED
PROCESS CONTROL SYSTEM**

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

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~~The present invention is directed to~~ ^A method of reprogramming a field device

5 in a process control network using the standard communications protocol for the network, and a reprogrammable field device in the process control network adapted for being reprogrammed using the standard communications protocol for the network. The method and device of the present invention use the standard communications protocol to transmit the downloaded code to the field device and store the

10 downloaded code in the field device while the device is enabled to perform process control. Once the new code is downloaded and stored in the field device, the field device is disabled from performing process control, reprogrammed to execute the downloaded code, and reenabled to perform process control.

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